

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR **19** July 1948

SUBJECT The Outbreak of Crop Disease in Bulgaria

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

- 25X1 1. A large number of arrests have occurred recently in connection with alarming crop situation in Bulgaria. The crops have been attacked by an insect parasite, which is described as a small grey vermiform body, the technical name of which in Bulgarian is Sivia Chervey.
- 25X1 2. Such an epidemic is practically unprecedented in Bulgaria, and the government has brought two Soviet specialists to help fight the epidemic. Their names are Nikiphor Mihaylov and Jouravov Mihayl Antimovic.
3. In political and intellectual circles, three different rumors are circulating regarding the epidemic. One rumor is that the epidemic does not constitute a serious danger to the crop, but the government is stressing it in order to have an excuse for the failure of the Two Year Plan. Another rumor considers that the epidemic will serve a useful purpose in enabling the government to liquidate the last remnants of opposition element among the village mayors, agronomists and personnel of the agrarian schools, who were elected as members of the new popular councils. The third version attributes the sole responsibility for the epidemic to the Soviets on the grounds that the latter sent infected seed to Bulgaria when they made their "propaganda distribution" of seed for the harvest in order to keep the country hungry or half-starved, so that it would be easier to exercise a tight control over it.

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